

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A regeneration method of regenerating a used nonwoven filter fabric, comprising:

fibrillating the used nonwoven filter fabric to which ~~powder~~ harmful dust is adhered, said fibrillating resulting in production of fibrillated individual fibers;

separating said ~~powder~~ harmful dust from the fibrillated individual fibers;

and

producing a nonwoven fabric from the fibrillated individual fibers.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The regeneration method according to claim 1, wherein the fibrillating is effected by an automatic fibrillating apparatus.

4. (Currently amended) The regeneration method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the used non-woven filter fabric is a filter fabric carrying further comprising applying to the fibrillated individual fibers or the filter fabric a~~ chemical agent for decomposing both dioxin and substances from which dioxin may be produced so as to prevent dioxin from adhering to the filter fabric while the filter fabric is being used.

5. (Previously Presented) The regeneration method according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the used nonwoven filter fabric is mainly comprised of PTFE fibers.

6. (Previously Presented) The regeneration method according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the used nonwoven filter fabric is comprised of at least PTFE fibers and inorganic fibers.

7. (Withdrawn) A regenerated filter fabric comprising at least a dust collection layer which is mainly comprised of fibrillated fibers obtained by fibrillating a used filter fabric.

8. (Withdrawn) The regenerated filter fabric according to claim 7 further comprising a base cloth to which the dust collection layer is fixed.

9. (Withdrawn) The regenerated filter fabric according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the dust collection layer is comprised of the fibrillated fibers mixed with auxiliary fibers.

10. (Withdrawn) The regenerated filter fabric according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the dust collection layer comprises a nonwoven fabric comprised of the fibrillated fibers.

11. (Withdrawn) The regenerated filter fabric according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the used filter fabric is mainly comprised of PTFE fibers.

12. (Withdrawn) The regenerated filter fabric according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the used filter fabric is comprised of at least PTFE fibers and inorganic fibers.